

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Correctional Services has jurisdiction over all adult offenders in the province (aged 16 years and over when apprehended*) sentenced to terms of up to two years less a day and those receiving a term of probation. The Ontario Board of Parole is responsible for paroling offenders from provincial institutions.

During the 1982-83 fiscal year, the number of admissions to provincial jails and detention centres totaled 71,090 while 29,500 persons were placed on probation. The average daily inmate count in jails and detention centres over the year was 3,695 and in correctional centres the average count was 2,301. In community residences, the average weekly count was 405.

Inmates between the ages of 16 and 25 admitted to Ontario institutions make up about 54.7 per cent of Ontario's total institution population.

Jails and detention centres usually house persons on remand awaiting trial, those serving short sentences of up to 124 days, and those awaiting transfer to other institutions. Correctional centres house offenders receiving longer sentences of up to two years less a day.

Many inmates have fewer educational and occupational achievements. The ministry provides a variety of academic, vocational and occupational training in correctional centres and some detention centres. Life skills courses and spiritual and social counselling programs are designed to help offenders prepare for the responsibilities of normal community existence.

COMMUNITY AND INMATE VOLUNTEERS

Most ministry facilities have a volunteer service to enhance existing services. Volunteers provide life skills courses, entertainment, group discussion, or counselling on a one-to-

one basis. Many volunteers are involved through community service agencies and organizations.

Selected inmates volunteer their time in the community through programs offering help to the elderly, people who are handicapped or mentally retarded, and to adult patients in mental health facilities. In co-operation with the Ministry of Natural Resources, they also assist in community services such as forest fire fighting and tree planting.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

This program makes positive use of inmate labor and assists in the ministry's efforts to become increasingly self-sufficient in areas such as food and energy. A variety of institutional maintenance services, most inmate clothing and bedding items, some institutional security furnishings, and portable security units are provided through various work programs in the institutions.

TYPES OF SECURITY

The ministry's facilities provide three types of security for inmates: minimum, medium, and maximum. In general, inmates in maximum security are housed in separate cells, are closely supervised, are less likely to be eligible for the ministry's temporary absence program (TAP) for work or educational purposes, and are not permitted physical contact with visitors.

Medium security institutions have both single cell and dormitory accommodation. Inmates have more freedom within the institution than do those in maximum security facilities.

Minimum security accommodation is often dormitory style, with a few single cells being used for serious infractions of institution rules. Minimum security facilities house inmates who are not considered dangerous to the community, and who are not likely to take advantage of the open-style setting.

INMATE CLASSIFICATION AND TRANSFER

The ministry uses a centralized decision-making process to classify and place inmates who receive sentences of 124 days or more. The inmates' security requirements are determined by factors such as criminal history, type of offence, length of sentence, age and previous institutional history. Once transferred to a correctional centre, inmates are assigned to specific work and programs according to their needs and capabilities.

JAILS AND DETENTION CENTRES

In 1968 the ministry assumed responsibility for all institutions holding offenders serving sentences of up to two years less a day. All provincial jails and detention centres are maximum security facilities. They hold persons who have been remanded for court appearances, as well as those arrested on default of a committal warrant, those awaiting immigration hearings or deportation, parole violators, and others. Most offenders receiving short sentences of less than 124 days remain in a jail or detention centre.

For the longer-term offender, the ministry operates nine correctional centres, three camps, and two treatment facilities.

Because jails and detention centres house persons awaiting trial, some of whom are charged with serious offences and will eventually be transferred to a federal prison, the security aspect of the facility is a primary consideration and programs are therefore somewhat restricted.

CORRECTIONAL CENTRES

Correctional centres are either medium or minimum security institutions, with the exception of Millbrook Correctional Centre, which is a maximum security institution with a minimum security camp outside its perimeter.

Academic and trades training classes in areas

such as bricklaying, carpentry and motor mechanics, as well as programs which help inmates develop good work habits and skills, are provided at correctional centres.

Selected inmates may, under the temporary absence program, attend classes or work at an apprenticeship program in the community during the day and return to the institution in the evenings and for weekends.

Millbrook Correctional Centre provides such industries as production of security hardware, the manufacture of vehicle licence plates for the province, tailoring, and dry cleaning and laundry of inmate clothing.

The Vanier Centre for Women is a medium/minimum security facility which accommodates up to 96 female inmates. Three cottages, combined with an assessment/orientation cottage, form the medium security complex, while Ingleside is the minimum security unit.

The Maplehurst Correctional Centre also contains a training centre in which suitable offenders may upgrade their academic and vocational skills. Some of the programs offered include: basic literacy training; basic mathematics; communications; building maintenance; drafting; woodworking; upholstery; and other trades which are currently in demand in the community.

TREATMENT FACILITIES

The Ontario Correctional Institute (OCI), a 220-bed treatment facility, accepts inmates from other provincial correctional facilities. OCI provides specialized psychological, social work, psychiatric, and other clinical services to inmates requiring these services.

The 50-bed Guelph Assessment and Treatment Unit (part of the Guelph Correctional Centre) accepts male inmates for psychiatric assessment from any ministry facility. After initial assessment, an inmate may remain for a further period of assessment or treatment, or be transferred to another ministry facility.

* Implementation of the provisions of the Young Offenders Act will raise the age of adult offenders from 16 to 18 years by April 1, 1985.

CAMPS

Three minimum security camps provide outdoor work for selected inmates. Projects include pruning, thinning, and clearing of county forests and conservation areas in co-operation with the Ministry of Natural Resources. Inmates at these camps also perform community work such as cutting firewood for provincial parks and institutional use. Some of the wood is sold to the public through auction sales or given to the needy or elderly.

HOUSE OF CONCORD

Under a contract agreement with the Salvation Army, this community residential program for 85 men provides training in carpentry, upholstery, general maintenance, and other marketable skills in a minimum security setting. All residents must meet the TAP requirements.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES (CRCs)

Private agencies operate 70 halfway house type residences on a contract basis, offering a community setting for selected offenders completing an institutional sentence, on probation, on parole, or on remand. CRC residents work at gainful employment or attend educational upgrading courses. Those who earn an income pay a maximum of \$42 per week to their centre for room and board.

TEMPORARY ABSENCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The temporary absence program permits sentenced men and women to go into the community for a period of time.

Through the use of the TAP, inmates may participate in academic or vocational training, obtain employment, attend to medical requirements not covered by the institution's services, or attend to family matters.

Those earning an income pay toward their room and board at the institution and pay taxes and help support their families.

In the case of offenders sentenced to terms of

less than 90 days, a judge may recommend immediate TAP, usually implemented within 24 hours, to permit offenders to continue their employment or education.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

All ministry facilities provide recreational programs, geared to the type of facility and the potential abilities of the inmates.

Health care services are provided in every facility. The inmate has access to dental, medical, nursing and psychiatric services within the institution, and to outside consultation according to the assessment of the attending physician or the health care staff delegate. Full- or part-time psychiatric, psychological, and counselling services are available. These staff members provide vital input in assessment as well as in individual and group therapy programs. They also act as program and case consultants to correctional staff.

Meals in all facilities meet Canadian dietary standards as determined by the Canadian Council on Nutrition.

A professional library service provides all facilities with a wide range of books and magazine selections.

Chaplaincy services are offered by either staff or volunteers of all denominations. Staff chaplains are also involved in other aspects of programming such as pastoral counselling for inmates and their families.



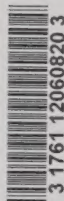
Ontario

Ministry of
Correctional
Services

Honourable Nicholas G. Leliuk
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Correctional Institutions and Programs in Ontario

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Under the supervision of correctional officers, inmates grow much of the produce used in Ontario's correctional institutions.